

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1404

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Craig Fitzhugh on his election and induction as Chairman of the Tennessee Bankers Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this body should pause to pay tribute to those exceptional Tennesseans who have achieved great success in their various areas of expertise; and

WHEREAS, such an esteemed individual is our friend and colleague, Craig Fitzhugh who is chairman and CEO of the Bank of Ripley in Ripley, Tennessee, and who has recently been elected and inducted as the Chairman of the Tennessee Bankers Association at its 120th Annual Convention; and

WHEREAS, first organized in Memphis on October 22, 1890, the Tennessee Bankers Association is a trade association, comprised of all of the 237 banks and thrift institutions in Tennessee, which provides a vast array of programs and services to its members including continuing education, monitoring of state and federal legislation, and promotion and dissemination of information on the financial services industry; and

WHEREAS, with his election and induction as chairman, Craig Fitzhugh follows in the footsteps of his father, Tom Fitzhugh, as the two become one of a very, very select combinations of father and sons to have held this prestigious office; and

WHEREAS, Representative Craig Fitzhugh has represented the 82nd district as a member of the House of Representatives since 1994 and he currently serves as chairman of the House Finance, Ways, and Means Committee and chairman of the Joint Council on Pensions and Insurance; and

WHEREAS, as chairman and CEO of the Bank of Ripley, Craig Fitzhugh has proven himself to be a leader focused on providing quality service to his clients and customers as the Bank of Ripley has earned six State Quality Awards during his tenure and was named one of the Best Employers in Tennessee in 2007; and

WHEREAS, through the Bank of Ripley, Mr. Fitzhugh has also endeavored to be actively involved with his community and created a grant program that has provided more than \$200,000 to supplement classroom resources for local teachers; and

WHEREAS, named by *Business TN* magazine as one of the "Best Lawmakers in Tennessee", Representative Fitzhugh is respected and admired for his integrity and resolute character and serves on the Board of Professional Responsibility for the Tennessee Supreme Court and on the board of directors of The Tennessee Technology Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, Representative Fitzhugh has also provided sterling service as a member of the Calendar and Rules Committee, the Rules Committee, the Commerce Committee, the Budget Subcommittee, the Utilities and Banking Subcommittee, the Joint Fiscal Review Committee, the Joint Select Committee on Corrections Oversight, and the Joint Workers Compensation Committee; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean born in Brownsville, Craig Fitzhugh was active in the Boy Scouts as a young man, becoming an Eagle Scout, and attended Ripley High School where he was an outstanding athlete and played football, baseball, and basketball; and

WHEREAS, a 1972 graduate of the University of Tennessee, Mr. Fitzhugh holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1975; and

WHEREAS, proud to serve his country, Craig Fitzhugh entered the U.S. Air Force in 1976 and served until 1980 as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps; he served an additional eight years as a Major in the Air Force Reserves and would practice law in West Tennessee for twelve years before joining the Bank of Ripley; and

WHEREAS, a Fellow of the Tennessee Bar Foundation and member of the Tennessee Bar Association, Mr. Fitzhugh also serves on the Board of Trustees of Union University and

remains active in the Boy Scouts, where he serves as a member of the Board of the West Tennessee Area Council; and

WHEREAS, he has lent his time and talent to countless civic and community service organizations, including the Heart Fund, American Cancer Society, Tina Turner Family Center, Professional Counseling Service, Lauderdale County Chamber of Commerce, Duck's Unlimited, and the Ripley Rotary Club to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, a deacon at the First Baptist Church, Ripley, Craig Fitzhugh has been married to his beloved wife Pam for thirty-six years as of today, June 8, 2010, and he is the proud parent of two devoted children and one wonderful son-in-law, daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Chaz, and son Tom. Elizabeth is a first grade teacher in Maury County, Chaz is a recent graduate of the University of Memphis Law School and practices in Columbia, and Tom is a financial analyst and lives in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, we wish to seize this opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding bankers and citizens on this momentous occasion in his professional career; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate our friend and colleague, Craig Fitzhugh on his election and induction as chair of the Tennessee Bankers Association and offer him our best wishes for a highly successful term in office and every success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.